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News James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge 16th Judicial Circuit Court, Macomb County Probate Court. 42nd District Courts

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Julie Bovenschen 586-469-5164 Date: March 13, 2020

COVID-19 Response

In light of the recent developments surrounding COVID-19, the Declaration of Emergency by Governor Whitmer, and the Michigan Supreme Court's recommendations to lower the risk to litigants, court staff, and the public, the 16th Judicial Circuit, Macomb County Probate, and 42nd Judicial District Courts are taking the following steps. The Courts will limit jury trials during the state of emergency to only priority matters. As a result, the Court will require a minimal number of jurors to report to jury duty over the next several weeks. All hearings with vulnerable persons may be adjourned upon request of the vulnerable person.

In other cases, please consider options for conducting business with the Court remotely. We have options for fax filing and, in many cases, remote videoconferencing. During the state of emergency, the fax filing convenience fees are waived. Any document that is not required to be e-filed may be filed by U.S. Mail or facsimile. In addition, the Macomb County Clerk's Office encourages the use of the drop box for submission of proposed orders, including self-addressed, stamped envelope for return copy. Additionally, the Prosecutor's Office will entertain phone and e-mail correspondence and consider stipulated adjournments. For matters with the Prosecutor's Office please contact for 586-469-5350.

Many court forms can be found on our various court departments and the Macomb County Clerk's Office website. For more information, including forms, please see

https://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/Circuitcourt-Home and https://clerk.macombgov.org/Clerk-Home. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should contact the judges' staff by phone as soon as possible to make appropriate alternative arrangements.

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